



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

October 9, 2002

S. 2608

Coastal and Estuarine Land Protection Act

*As reported by the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
on October 3, 2002*

SUMMARY

S. 2608 would establish a new grant program to be carried out by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). For this purpose, the bill would authorize the appropriation of \$65 million in 2003 and \$60 million a year thereafter. Assuming appropriation of the \$305 million authorized through 2007 by the bill, CBO estimates that the federal government would spend about \$5 million in fiscal year 2003 and about \$190 million over the 2003-2007 period to implement the legislation. The remaining \$115 million authorized through 2007 would be spent after that year, as well as any amounts appropriated beginning in 2008. Enacting S. 2608 would not affect revenues or direct spending.

This legislation contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

S. 2608 would authorize the appropriation of \$60 million annually (beginning in 2003) for competitive grants to eligible states. The grants would be used to finance up to 75 percent of the costs of acquiring land in coastal zone management areas or national estuarine research reserves. In addition, the bill would authorize the appropriation of \$5 million in 2003 for a demonstration project to protect coastal habitat.

The estimated budgetary impact of S. 2608 is shown in the following table. The costs of this legislation fall within budget function 300 (natural resources and environment). For this

estimate, CBO assumes that the full amounts authorized by the bill will be appropriated for each year and that outlays will follow historical spending patterns for other NOAA grant programs.

	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars				
	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007

CHANGES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION					
Authorization Level	65	60	60	60	60
Estimated Outlays	5	25	40	60	60

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT

S. 2608 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA. The bill would authorize grants to states to acquire property to protect certain coastal or estuarine areas. Grantees would be able to allocate a portion of the funds received under the program to qualified local entities to acquire land in cooperation with other organizations. Any costs to state or local governments would be the result of complying with grant conditions.

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